United Nations

Daily Highlights

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TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General, in Addis Ababa, says his Special Envoy, James O.C. Jonah, was "unsuccessful" in his mission to Israel; dispatches a second mission led by his Special Political Adviser, Chinmaya Gharekhan of India, who leaves for Cairo today.

+ In Addis Ababa today, Mr. Boutros-Ghali meets with Dr. Salim Ahmed Salim, Secretary-General of Organization of African Unity for discussion of issues of concern to Africa, in particular, and to international community, in general.

+ Sanctions Committee on Yugoslavia is informed of misuse of United Nations documentary communications for illicit oil import into Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro); Committee decides to initiate measures to identify perpetrators.

+ Two Government emissaries from El Salvador meet with high-level United Nations officials at Headquarters today to furnish clarification, as requested by Secretary-General, concerning list of officers in armed forces whom President Cristiani had promised to transfer or discharge.

+ Slovak Republic, formerly part of Czechoslovakia, submits its application for membership in United Nations.

+ Food and Agriculture Organization reports food distribution improving in Somalia; cites growing need elsewhere in Africa in 1993.

+ Bosnia and Herzegovina asks for urgent distribution of aid to some 270,000 people in eastern part of country, near or within Serbian and Montenegrin controlled territory, where "all attempts in organizing supply missions have failed".

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has informed Security Council members that his Special Envoy, Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs James O.C. Jonah, was "unsuccessful" in his mission to find a solution to the

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Israeli deportation of over 400 Palestinians from the occupied territories to southern Lebanon. At a press conference in Addis Ababa today, the Secretary-General said he had therefore decided to send to Israel his Special Political Adviser and Representative to the Multilateral Peace Talks, Chinmaya Rajaninath Gharekhan of India. The latter was to leave New York this evening for Cairo where he was to meet with Mr. Boutros-Ghali before traveling to Israel.

The Secretary-General further told correspondents that should this mission, too, prove unsuccessful, he would then recommend in his report that the Security Council consider taking further steps to ensure that its decision in resolution 799 (1992) was respected. By that resolution, the Council, while condemning the deportation of Palestinians, demanded that Israel ensure the safe and immediate return of all those deported. According to a United Nations spokesman today, the Secretary-General would report to the Security Council on the follow-up to that resolution "probably in mid-January".

In reply to questions regarding Somalia, the Secretary-General said he had held "good talks" in Mogadishu with General Johnston who is in command of the United States troops there, and that he continued to be satisfied with cooperation between the Unified Taks Force and the United Nations. Asked what would happen "when the Americans leave", the Secretary-General said that question would require a new Security Council resolution.

Earlier today, Mr. Boutros-Ghali addressed the heads of divisions at the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the heads of United Nations agencies and programmes based in Addis Ababa, and the ECA staff.

The Secretary-General is scheduled to leave Addis Ababa for Asmara tomorrow morning.

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In Addis Ababa today, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali met with Dr. Salim Ahmed Salim, Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) to discuss a wide rage of issues of concern to Africa, in particular. and to the international community in general.

On the situation in Africa, the two diplomats discussed civil conflicts, the current process of change on the continent and the socio-economic conditions of African States. Discussions also covered developments in Somalia, Angola, Mozambique, Liberia, Rwanda, Western Sahara and South Africa. Concerning the situation in Sierra Leone, they expressed sadness and deep concern over the recent developments and appealed to the leadership of that country to exercise restraint in accordance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights.

Mr. Salim briefed Mr. Boutros-Ghali on the efforts carried out by the OAU in the area of conflict management; in assisting Member States in the peaceful transition linked to the democratization process; and in promoting economic

integration and development within the framework of the African Economic Community.

For his part, Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali welcomed the efforts of the OAU in that regard, as each of those areas were also of fundamental concern to the United Nations.

The two officials exchanged views on the socio-economic situation in Africa, and in view of the continued decline of the African economies, agreed that a more determined and concerted effort was required on the part of the international community in support of Africa's own efforts towards development. In this connection, the OAU Secretary-General welcomed recent efforts by the United Nations Secretary-General to convene in Geneva a special meeting devoted to the socio-economic situation of Africa.

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The Committee monitoring the sanctions imposed by the Security Council on former Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) has received information that fraud is being committed through misuse or falsification of United Nations documentary communications. The fraud aims at facilitating the illicit import into the Republic of goods prohibited under the sanctions regime. The Committee has been innformed that the fraud consists of illicit imports of large quantities of oil and petroleum products.

In a statement issued today, the Committee said it had decided that procedures should be instituted immediately to determine the identity of the perpetrators and the extent of the reported fraud. It also decided to contact the authorities of the former Yugoslavia with a request for immediate official investigations into the whole affair.

According to the statement issued by the Committee Chairman, José Ayala Lasso of Ecuador, the mischief, as so far identified, consists in the misuse of the United Nations letter-headed stationery, the fraudulent re-use of documents originally and legitimately signed by authorized United Nations officials, or the falsified representation of the names and/or titular status of such officials.

Mr. Lasso said in the statement that the whole purpose of the fraudulent exercise was thereby to deceive the customs officials of the exporting countries into believing that the exports in question had been approved or authorized by the Committee.

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Two Government emissaries from El Salvador today met with high-level United Nations officials to furnish clarification regarding a list of specific officers in the armed forces whom President Alfredo Cristiani had promised to transfer or discharge before 31 December, 1992.

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In a statement issued last week, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali said he had concluded, from the absence of such a list in a document sent to him by President Cristiani, that the Salvadoran Government had not complied with its commitments under the peace agreement to purify the armed forces. He said the document did "not conform with the recommendations to the Ad Hoc Commission on the Purification of the Armed Forces" for the discharge and transfer of certain officers which the President had agreed to carry out in full.

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The Slovak Republic -- part of what was known as Czechoslovakia -- has submitted its application for membership in the United Nations.

In a declaration, annexed to the application, dated 4 January, the Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic, Vladimir Meciar, stated that his country accepted the obligations contained in the United Nations Charter and would solemnly undertake to fulfil them.

The application will be considered by the Security Council and the General Assembly in due course.
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While food distribution is improving in famine-devastated Somalia, millions in the Sudan, Ethiopia, Liberia and elsewhere in Africa will need food assistance throughout the coming year, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) announced today. It said 20 countries face "exceptional food emergencies".

The FAO urged the international community to spread the aid net wider if the countries most seriously affected by civil war and drought are to make it through 1993 without widespread loss of life.

The Agency said that more than 300,000 persons in Somalia were estimated to have died from hunger-related causes in 1992 and some 1 million people remained at grave risk of starvation and would continue to be reliant on food aid at least through 1993.

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Bosnia and Herzegovina has asked that aid be urgently distributed to some 270,000 people living in a number of cities in the eastern part of the country, near or within Serbian and Montenegrin controlled territory, where it said all attempts in organizing supply missions have failed.

The appeal was contained in a letter, dated 30 December, to the Council President from the Director of the Office for Displaced Persons and Refugees for Bosnia and Herzegovina, Amila Omersoftic.

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The letter said harsh winter conditions in the eastern regions, which are this country's least developed regions, had already caused numerous deaths and the population was vulnerable to starvation, exposure and disease.

The Bosnian Director implored the Security Council to advise the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in the region to increase their pressure on Serbian and Montenegrin forces to allow relief convoys to reach the desperately needy individuals.

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